Persons living Below Poverty Line

2862. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons living Below Poverty Line in the urban areas of the country and their percentage out of total urban population;

(b) whether the Central Government studied the similar conditions in other countries and the initiatives taken by them to successfully tackle the situation; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, and the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) As per the planning Commission estimates in 1999- 2000, the total number of persons living below the poverty line in urban areas of the country is 6.71 crore, and their percentage to the total urban population is 23.62%

(b) and (c) Though no such specific country-wise study has been carried out by the Minstry of Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation, it has already been implementing employment oriented Urban Poverty Alleviation Centrally Sponsored Scheme named Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozagar Yojana, on all India basis since 1.12.1997 for the benefit of urban poor living below poverty line. This programme seeks to provide gainful employment to the urban unemployed poor through setting up of micro interprises and also through provisions of wage employment by utilizing their labour for constructions of useful public assets.

Special policy initiative to promote sports

2863. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the latest special policy initiatives to promote and project sports and games in general and in respect of certain popular games and sports in particular;

(b) whether there has been some outstanding achievements and performance due to such initiatives in the recent past; and

(c) whether it is a fact that most of the outstanding players and sportsman/sportswomen have reached their zenith on account of their own initiative and merit rather than the environment and facilities offered by Government?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) 'Sports' is a State Subject under the Constitution and the promotion of Sports at the State level is mainly the responsibility of the State Governments and Sports Federations. However, the Government of India, through its own schemes and schemes of Sports Authority of India (SAI), augments the efforts of the State Governments and Federations in the promotion of sports.

To this end, the Government of India runs following schemes to boost sports in the country:

1. Scheme relating to Incentives for the Promotion of Sports Activities.

The Scheme has the following five components:

(a) Sports Fund for Pension to Meritorious Sportspersons

(b) Promotion of Sports and Games in Schools

(c) Rural Sports Programme

(d) Sports Scholarship Scheme

(e) National Sports Development Fund

2. Scheme relating to Awards:

The Scheme has the following components:

(a) Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Awards

(b) Special Awards to Winners in International Sports Events and their Coaches

(c) Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (MAKA) Trophy

3. Arjuna Awards

4. Dronacharya Awards

5. Dhyan Chand Award for Life Time Achievements in Sports and Games

6. National Welfare Fund for Sportspersons.

7. National Sports Championship for Women

8. Scheme of State Sports Academies

9. Scheme of Assistance to National Sports Federations

10. Talent Search & Training.

In addition, the Sports Authority of India implements the following sports promotion schemes in the country:—

1. National Sports Talent Contest (NSTC)

2. Army Boys Sports Company (ABSC)

3. SAI Training Centre (STC)

4. Special Area Games (SAG)

5. Centres of Excellence (COX).

(b) Sportspersons who have excelled at the international level in prestigious events like the Olympics, Asian and Commonwealth Games and World Championships were benefited from the above schemes of the Government as well as SAI. Sportspersons like Lt. Col. R.V.S. Rathore, Anju Bobby George, Abhinav Bindra, Anjali Bhagwat, Gagan Narang, Samresh Jung, Pankaj Advani were assisted and provided financial and technical support for their preparation, both within the country and abroad.

(c) Achievement is primarily on account of individual talent, persistence aid drive. Government's efforts are aimed at encouraging and inviting such talent.

Sports Complex at Udupi

2864. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal for construction of sports complex at Udupi district is pending with Government;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when a final decision would be taken?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) Till 31.3.2005, the Ministry was